Appl. No.: 10/087,146
Amdt. Dated: December 16, 2003
Reply to Office Action of: October 10, 2003

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the originally filed abstract with the following amended abstract:

Abstract of the Invention

The invention provides a method of making ≥ 4 kHz repetition rate argon fluoride excimer laser crystal optics. The method includes providing a solid magnesium fluoride crystal ~~solid~~ precursor, nonmetallically crushing the ~~magnesium fluoride~~ solid precursor to provide a crushed, low metal contaminant ~~magnesium fluoride~~ feedstock, providing a ~~magnesium fluoride~~ crystal growth crucible, loading the crushed ~~magnesium fluoride~~ feedstock into the crystal growth crucible, melting the loaded, crushed ~~magnesium fluoride~~ feedstock to provide a precrystalline ~~magnesium fluoride~~ melt, growing an oriented magnesium fluoride crystal from the precrystalline ~~magnesium fluoride~~ melt, cooling the grown ~~magnesium fluoride~~ crystal to provide a magnesium fluoride laser optical crystal having a 120 nm transmission of at least 30%, and forming the ~~magnesium fluoride~~ laser crystal into an excimer laser crystal optic for transmitting a high repetition rate (≥ 4 kHz repetition rate) excimer laser output.